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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1905.

## No Cause for Fright.

The report submitted to the Secretary of the Treasury by an expert of the Geological Survey on the pollution of the upper Potomac is of extreme interest to the people of the District, but it need not frighten them out of their skins.

Doubtless the river is polluted exactly as this scientist represents. Doubtless it would be disastrous to the Capital to consume the water of the Potomac in its river state if this pollution were allowed to increase during the next twenty years. But the river is not dangerously tainted now and none of its water is to be drunk in its river state at any time within the next twenty years.

On the contrary, as early as September 1 next, the War Department expects to put to use eleven of the seventeen beds of the new filtration plant, and by that means to purge of all its dangerous potentialities all the Potomac water which is used in Washington. Afterward, as need may arise, the remaining beds are to be opened and the water supply increased without deterioration in quality. In other words, Washington's water supply will be of better quality and more agreeable taste after September 1 next than at any time within the memory of its oldest inhabitants.

The inevitability of some pollution of the upper river was, indeed, the chief reason why Congress provided this new city filter. It was impossible to buy the whole Potomac watershed, and so prevent the pollution of the water. It did not seem practicable to prevent the pollution by having recourse to the courts. So Congress adopted the very wise precaution of making the water pure at the last moment possible before it reached the consumer.

There is certain the pollution of the upper Potomac ought to be controlled as far as possible. There would be an extra precaution against the transmission of disease through the city's drinking water, and there would also be a reasonable protection of the fish, which constitute an important feature of the city's food supply and a larger feature of the city's sport.

To the local Fish and Game Protective Association, indeed, this whole agitation is due. For four or five years its officers have been urging action against these offenders up the river. What the association has needed has been an aroused public sentiment, and it may be this vigorous report from the Geological Survey may arouse this sentiment. But whether it does so or not, the local association and its allies in Maryland and West Virginia now have abundant testimony on which to proceed in their own behalf.

## Panama's Commission.

When the present commission for Panama was named there was a feeling throughout the country that the personnel was excellent. Every man named has achieved a measure of distinction.

Something was wrong. The fact is evident now that the President regards the commission as a failure. It is a fortunate circumstance that the matter of remedy is in his own hands. If the act providing the commission is read aright, the President may dismiss the entire body or any part of it, or so fix salaries as to suggest the wisdom of resigning.

Perhaps, the episode is but another instance of the broth spoiled by too many cooks. A smaller commission might be far more effective, and certainly it could not well fall shorter of accomplishing the work than has the original body of which such high hopes were entertained in the beginning.

## Keeping Each Other in Line.

The fathers of the nation, in their wisdom, provided that treaties made in pursuance of the Constitution should be part of the "supreme law of the land." They provided, therefore, that one branch of the National Legislature should have an active part in the formulation of all such treaties. Recently the President—with an eye solely to the good of the country, no doubt, and the cause of international peace—sought opportunity to conclude certain treaties for the advancement of peace, without the advice and consent of the Senate. And the Senate has been able, of its own strength, to keep the law-making power where it belongs.

Next, the Constitution provides that all legislation as to revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives. Within the terms of certain laws the Secretary of the Treasury

has undertaken to revise the tariff law—which is primarily revenue legislation—by establishing drawbacks of certain duties. The Senate, sniffing another interference with the prerogatives of the legislative branch of the Government, administers a severe rebuke to the executive branch, by tacking to an appropriation bill a prohibition against these drawbacks.

Then the House goes into the rebuking business. What the Senate has done is either a declaration with the force of law or it is mere advice to the Secretary of the Treasury. It cannot be a declaration with the force of law because every such declaration as to the revenues of the nation must originate in the House. If it is advice to the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary need pay no attention to it, and so the Senate's action is mere impertinence.

Now, who is to rebuke the House?

## Under Death Sentences.

To be under sentence of death, and know that the time is set when the sun shall go down forever, is to the individual an awful experience. The one condemned prays for mercy, exhausts every resource, and if calm at the last is calm with the lethargy of despair.

Death that comes in natural form is less terrible. In some mysterious manner there is preparation for it. The weary frame adjusts itself to the inevitable, and the eyes, looking out over the hills of eternity, see naught to fear.

Duke Sergius moved during his final weeks under a sentence of death as specific as ever pronounced by a court. He knew that he was a doomed man. At any corner there might be an assassin in wait, and each shadow well might be deemed the lurking place of the emissary of slaughter. Yet it may be said of the man that he bore himself with courage. To be sure he fled from the place supposed to be most dangerous, but he knew that in all Russia there was no safe place for him.

There are others high in station in Russia who are under sentence of death. The pall hangs over them. The prisoner in the condemned cell listening to the artisan that erects the gallows is not more certain of the future. Only he knows the exact date. There is none of the suspense that must be almost unendurable. He knows he has a week, a day, or an hour, but the Russian autocrat knows not that he has a minute. At any instant the missile that means tragedy and the end may be launched at him.

The conditions in Russia are revealed in their horror by the murder of Sergius and the assurance that he was but one among a list of chosen victims. The history of Russia has many dark pages of oppression, brutality, and greed. Czars have been slain by rivals as well as by subjects, and odious men and women have ruled with hands of iron dripping blood. The present czar had a chance to redeem the royal name. At the counsel of Sergius and the other dukes he threw this chance away. He might have spared the world the useless war with Japan. The dukes urged him on. He could have won the love of his people, but his Cossacks lashed their upturned faces and rode them down. The affront was beyond forgiving. It gave fresh impetus to the dormant Terror. It awakened passions that hope had lulled into quiescence, and now there is no compromise. Violence meets violence. It is not of record that wrongs are thus to be adjusted. But the wronged, blind in their fury, do not reflect. They have chosen the objects upon which to vent their wrath, they know they could create no condition worse than envisions them, and clamoring for reform, what really they seek is vengeance. This they will have, and there is no power now that can estop them until they have crushed, not autocracy perhaps, but those who seem to them to be its most malignant representatives.

The czar must experience all the emotions of one who knows that sentence has been passed upon him, and that there is no appeal.

## Poor, Yellow Doggie.

Recently a little yellow dog committed suicide by jumping from the Brooklyn bridge. There was nothing to indicate up to the moment before that life was not as sweet to it as to any other dog with a blue ribbon about its neck. It was the victim of aspersion. Because some stranger had rebuffed its approach, the dog had snapped at him. At once the cry of "mad dog" was raised. There was not the slightest indication that the dog had the rabies or anything else not proper for a dog to have. But that cry in a crowd is enough to give everybody within ear-shot a quick hydrophobia. The poor beast was pursued, policemen trying to club it. At the other end of the bridge another array of policemen made similar demonstrations. The fugitive turned back, only to meet again the menace of a line of clubbers. Back and forth over a shortening course he doubled until he saw there was no escape, and then jumped to the river far below. He was only a poor little yellow dog, with feelings more delicate than those of the human rabble.

Most men pass through life without a glimpse of a mad dog, for creatures thus afflicted are so rare that some authorities question that they exist. Of the dogs chased and beaten to death as mad, probably not one in a hundred had a symptom of the malady, or would have done anything more vicious than to bite in return for a kick. Mad dogs do not foam at the mouth, yet the specimens selected for stoning are always reported as "foaming at the mouth." Nor do the rabies move aside from a straight line to attack. Yet the quietest cur that ever passed along is sufficient basis for a panic if only some nervous observer will point at it and raise the usual silly alarm.

## An Alimony Graft.

Attention is called to a peculiar phase of the divorce problem by a suit for alimony instituted by the wife of a wealthy man against another man who once had the joy of being her No. 1. When a divorce was secured the first husband was obligated to pay alimony. He did so until the place he once had occupied in the women's affections had been given to another. This second happy person was amply competent to keep the family pot boiling. He could give his wife pin money in large sums. So the first balked, and would not pay more alimony. Now he is to be haled to court and made to show cause why he should not support another man's wife.

The granting of alimony is due to the fact that the man in the marriage compact is the provider. When he withdraws from the scene the cupboard is apt to become bare, and alimony is for the purpose of guarding against this contingency. If a woman, divorced and in receipt of alimony, is at liberty to remarry without impairing her claim upon this tribute, the field of graft is materially extended. There is many a man who would gladly marry for the sake of having his living provided by some other man to whose bounty he has no even remote title.

Alimony is a pension. The soldier's widow loses her pension when she abandons real widowhood, and it is not clear that the grass or artificial variety ought to be granted any greater privilege.

## The High Heel.

A New York woman after suffering much for four years has had to have a leg cut off. Her injury was due to the wearing of high heels, and just before going upon the operating table she issued to members of her sex a warning against indulgence in shoes adorned by these dangerous stilts. If she had any notion that her warning would be heeded, she is of a nature truly sanguine. The extremely high heel is dangerous in many ways. In the first place it distorts the body painfully, causes it to assume a strained and unnatural position, and disturbs such functions as circulation. But there is also the constant peril of falling. A woman whose heel is hoisted on a peg must have a precarious footing, and if the peg get tangled in a ruffle or thrust into a crack, she is apt to have a fall lacking in grace but about as forceful as the tumbling over of a ladder.

The high heel will not go, however, because of a tendency to break legs or necks. It will go out when fashion shall decree the going.

## Points in Paragraphs.

The Zemsky sobor might easily be misapprehended in a way to make the title suggestive.

There are prospects that the country will get very tired of Hoch long before the autopsy.

Hoke Smith and Secretary Hitchcock don't seem to get together on that oil deal.

The law forbidding the washing of stock has no relation to the sheep dip industry.

Medical science thinks it has discovered a way to knock the spots of spots off fever without harm to the patient. Pretty soon there will be nothing left to die of.

There will be no effort to disturb the Senatorial belief that the late Quay was a remarkably good man.

Druggists who sell poison to anybody asking for it ought to feel a passing interest in the result of the inquest.

One Panama commissioner refused to accept railroad fees, and his only reward thus far has been to have his name misspelled in the papers.

Mr. Metcalf is said to need money to probe Standard Oil. Possibly Mr. Rockefeller would accommodate him.

Occasionally the Senate gets a pretty fair grasp of the circumstance that there is a House of Representatives.

Carrie Nation grabbed a cigar from the mouth of a Nebraska man and he grabbed a few hairs from her devoted head. There was a lesson in manners due Carrie.

It is about time for Senator Clark to rise to a question of personal privilege and explain where he got all that land.

Three of the signers of the Declaration of Independence lived to be ninety, which was longer than they would have lived if King George had not been overruled by Providence.

It is hard to intimidate a bomb thrower who is perfectly willing to die with his bomb.

The czar seems to have been especially injudicious in the selection of uncles.

So the Senate is not permitted to believe what Judge Swayne says about himself. This seems to be a sort of impeachment on its own hook.

A curious thing about Bat Masterson is that he did the things ascribed to him.

## FRANCE DECORATES WASHINGTON WOMAN

"Palmas Academiques" for Frances B. Johnston.

DISTINCTION IS FITTING

Notable Figure in Photography—Work at World's Fair—Paper Read in Paris.

That American women are fast carving for themselves a niche in the world's history of achievements has again been manifested in the recent action of the French government in bestowing upon an American woman, Frances Benjamin Johnston, one of its rarest decorations, the "Palmas Academiques."

A tiny bow of purple ribbon formed the chief feature of a formidable package which reached Miss Johnston at her Washington home some weeks ago, and inclosed with this was the diploma creating her an "Officer d'Academie."

The little bow of ribbon gives but a tiny bit of color to Miss Johnston's gowns, but it is sufficient to attract the attention of everyone who comes in contact with this distinguished woman whose pride in its possession is genuine through many reasons.

## Reasons for Award.

The French government conferred this order upon Miss Johnston for two specific reasons—first, for her paper and exhibits during the international congress of photography held in Paris in 1900, and second, for the assistance she was able to give her French associates on the board of awards during the St. Louis Exposition.

If the real reason were stated, however, it is just barely possible that a third reason might have figured in the award, which, though not paramount with the others, backs up a pretty little story.

Miss Johnston went to that congress as the only woman delegate. She had been invited to read a paper on the work of women photographers and, believing the subject would not yield itself readily to interesting treatment, set about preparing something which would just make the men delegates listen.

In doing this, she gathered together specimens of the work of about forty women photographers. Then she boarded the boat and landed in the convention hall among a crowd of men who were not only surprised at her appearance among the delegates, but who had not the faintest idea what they would do with her.

## Surprises Associates.

No one stopped to think that perhaps she might prove a factor in the convention. Everybody was charming and polite to her. There was, however, no wall space for her pictures, and for two or three sessions she could find no opportunity to address the convention.

When, at last, the opportunity did present itself, Miss Johnston read a paper and illustrated her subject in such a manner that it proved the feature of the convention. In consideration of this she was awarded a gold medal by special act of the exposition managers.

During the St. Louis Exposition Miss Johnston was associated in a group with a number of Frenchmen. The latter were not very familiar with the English language and her other associates found equal difficulty with the French. Many points of discussion arose relative to the duties of her jury group. It was through her knowledge of the language and customs of France that Miss Johnston was able to smooth out many a rugged place and make easy what otherwise seemed to many a difficult task.

## Miss Johnston Selected.

The French government signified its intention of bestowing upon an American woman the "Palmas Academiques" in recognition for her work at the St. Louis Exposition. Miss Johnston's friends in the various groups joined in saying that if any woman at the fair was to have the coveted decoration it must be Miss Johnston. And to Miss Johnston the honor has come.

So it was that this famous American woman went to France, showed the people over there that a woman is capable of doing other things than pouring tea—although Miss Johnston also does this delightfully—and that the American woman, above all others, has the pluck, the energy, and, happily, the opportunity to forge ahead unrestricted by conditions other than those with which she surrounds herself.

The order of "Palmas Academiques" was founded early in the nineteenth century by the first Emperor Napoleon. It was originally designated as a reward for signal achievement by students of the French University. Of later years, however, it has been extended to students all over the world, who may have added materially by their own efforts to the progress of the sciences or signally distinguished themselves in other ways.

A silver insignia goes with the pluck, the energy, and, happily, the opportunity to forge ahead unrestricted by conditions other than those with which she surrounds herself.

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This is a circular ornament of crossed palms suspended on a ring, and may be worn either as a pendant or in various other ways.

Representative Hamilton of Michigan took a party of Pottawattamie Indians to the White House yesterday, where they presented to the President a petition in regard to land claims which have been pending for many years. The lands the Pottawattamies are interested in are along the lake front and have been the subject of much litigation.

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## DECORATED BY FRANCE



FRANCES B. JOHNSTON.

American Woman Is Accorded the "Palmas Academiques," a Unique Distinction.

## The South's Reception Of Roosevelt's Speech

Nearly Every Representative Paper Expresses Words of Cordial Commendation for Recent Utterances on the Race Problem.

NEWS AND COURIER, CHARLESTON, S. C.—The President's speech on the birthday of Abraham Lincoln was the nearest approach he has made to the discussion of the race question, and it was totally inadequate to the importance of the subject.

TIMES-DISPATCH, RICHMOND, VA.—The President is entitled to his opinion on the race problem; but we of the South are equally entitled to ours.

DAILY STATES, NEW ORLEANS, LA.—The people of the South appreciate the kindly sentiments expressed toward them, and the spirit of sympathy which permeates the President's entire address.

THE CHRONICLE, AUGUSTA, GA.—Mr. Roosevelt stand before the nation regenerated. The South is, in ordinary fairness, committed to the necessity of meeting him half way.

THE DAILY POST, HOUSTON, TEX.—The South will meet the President in the same lofty spirit every time, and of this he will be convinced when he knows us better.

THE BANNER, NASHVILLE, TENN.—There is nothing in Mr. Roosevelt's position that the South will not thoroughly endorse.

THE TIMES-DEMOCRAT, NEW ORLEANS, LA.—Mr. Roosevelt's speech is friendly and the good wishes he expresses should be and will be appreciated by the Southern people.

THE REGISTER, MOBILE, ALA.—His speech is conservative and patriotic. It is timely and comes from a lofty source.

THE AGE-HERALD, BIRMINGHAM, ALA.—His speech is broad and liberal and the race problem of the South is treated from a lofty point of view.

THE LANDMARK, NORFOLK, VA.—Suffice it to say the South thinks much better of Mr. Roosevelt since the election.

THE VIRGINIA PILOT, NORFOLK, VA.—He spoke calmly, cautiously and from the eye-level of a statesman.

THE ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, LITTLE ROCK, ARK.—There is little in the address that attracts adverse criticism from even his political enemies.

THE EVENING HERALD, BALTIMORE, MD.—That time and experience have mellowed him and broadened him into a statesman.

## PLANS AN AMERICAN ACADEMY AT ROME

Representative McCleary Introduces a Bill Regulating Directors of Proposed Institution.

A bill to incorporate the "American Academy at Rome" was introduced in the House yesterday by Representative McCleary of Minnesota, and was referred to the Committee on Library. The bill is designed to charter an institution for the advancement of American art.

A similar bill was once before introduced in the House and favorably reported by the committee, and the new bill is submitted for the purpose of adding an amendment. This provides that no officer or employee of the United States Government, shall be eligible to hold the position of director of the academy.

The incorporators named are Edwin A. Abbey, Samuel A. B. Abbott, Edwin A. Alderman, and others, all men distinguished in literature and art in this country. It is declared in the bill that its purpose is "to promote the study and practice of the fine arts, and aid and stimulate the education and training of architects, painters, and sculptors."

The principal office of the academy is to be in Washington.

## WASHINGTON'S GOD.

Before his seventh year had yet begun, My little boy was shown George Washington Idealized on canvas of great size, Full-length, and all accoutred, soldier-wise.

His little brain, now brimming o'er with thought, To match the fullness which his eyes had caught, Reviewed the tales of valor he had heard, And fitted them to vision—word by word—

As one sets words to music, so that time And harmony are rhythmized in the rhyme. In sacred summary, the little lad Said: "What a great big God he must have had!"

MARGARET ANDREWS OLDHAM.

## DEFENDS CONGRESS RULE OF DISTRICT

Judge Speer Sees Here Perfect Government.

## APPREHENSION DISAPPOINTE

City Is Center of Culture and Intellect—Science and Ethics Have Home Here.

In recently discussing before a law class in Macon, Ga., the clause of the Constitution giving Congress exclusive jurisdiction over the District of Columbia, Judge Emory Speer of the Southern circuit of Georgia, said:

"This clause, however, has not escaped the animadversions of the detractors of the General Government. It was said that the exclusive control of our territory would make it the sanctuary for the wicked, the spot for the establishment of tyranny, and a refuge for the oppressors of the people."

"No such danger has manifested itself in all the years which have elapsed since the adoption of the Constitution. The District of Columbia and the city of Washington are both objects of pride to patriotic Americans everywhere. There no concentration of arbitrary or autocratic power threatens the liberty of the people."

## Center of Culture and Intellect.

"The city which bears the honored name of the Father of His Country is the rendezvous for all that is most brilliant, thoughtful, scholarly, and learned among the intellectual forces of our country. There clusters great colleges for the education of the country's youth."

"In that noble edifice constructed through the benevolence of the world and fascinating mysteries of animate and inanimate nature. In the vast museum which adjoins it are comprehended a varied collection from every science and art, trophies of the beauty, the simplicity, and the durability of the great Republic itself."

"In the marble walls of the Capitol, in its exquisite entablatures, its Corinthian columns, its matchless symmetry, its soaring grandeur, are typified the genius, the beauty, the simplicity, and the durability of the great Republic itself."

"In the one wing is the majestic and spacious hall devoted to the use of the representatives of the people. There gather that great assembly fresh from its constituent states, and their inspirations, devoted to their interests, impassioned in their advocacy, fervid with the loftiest ideals of the American heart, the effective, potent, indispensable body, most accurately termed the American House of Representatives."

"In the other, is serene, conservative, and sagacious, the noblest deliberative body on earth, the Senate of the United States."

## August Judiciary.

"Midway between them in a small but beautiful chamber, once the Senate chamber itself, there daily meets the supreme appellate tribunal of the great American people, the Supreme Court of the United States, an august judicial power literally without precedent or parallel not only in the present, but in all the ages of the past."

"Hard by is the American valhalla, where each State may place the chiseled presentments of two of its noblest and its best. There stand in storied marble or enduring bronze the figures of men, the very mention of whose names compels a thrill of admiration and pride in the heart of every man capable of love of country."

"There, too, at the other end of the avenue is that White House, hallowed by the name of every Chief Magistrate of our country from the second to the latest President."

"Around it at varying distances are gathered the more than imperial structures which the nation has contributed for the uses of the great executive departments of government, and from its southward windows one may behold two objects, either of which will evoke the unbidden tear of all save to him:

"Who never to himself hath said, 'This is my own, my native land,' A Majestic Monument."

"The one, on whose lofty summit eternal sunshine seems to gleam, is the monument of Washington, the father of this country, and across the broad, placid and majestic river which well nigh bathes its foundation stones, amid ancestral forests may be discovered the Doric simplicity of an ancient Virginia home. Its spacious grounds are consecrated as the resting places of heroes, of many who fought its master, of others who were guided by his matchless genius for war."

"There together sleep the ashes of the blue and of the gray, their tombs alike marked and cared for by the Federal province and the gentle ministrations of a proud and reunited country."

"The neighing troop, the flashing blade, The bugle's stirring blast; The charge, the dreadful cannonade, The din and shout are passed; No war's wild note nor glory's peal Shall thrill with fierce delight Those breasts that never more may feel The rapture of the fight."

"On fame's eternal camping ground Their silent tents are spread, And Glory guards, with solemn round, The bivouac of the dead."

"Above them all softly floats the flag of the freeman's home and hope. It is Arlington, the home of our own immortal Robert Edward Lee."

## TAFT AGAIN PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY CLUB

The University Club's officers for the year 1905 were elected last night by the club council, which was chosen by popular vote of the members a week ago and from which the officers are selected.

The officers, the first five of whom were re-elected, are: President, the Hon. William H. Taft; first vice president, the Hon. George B. Chauncey; second vice president, Prof. D. Walcott; secretary, Ralph P. Barlow; assistant secretary, Isaac R. Hitt; treasurer, Isaac H. Saunders; assistant treasurer, Henry A. Pressy; librarian, Arthur P. Greeley. The committee on admissions elected week ago will meet early this week to choose a chairman and secretary.